

Issue #81

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STUFF

MRD'RING MINISTERS is a gamezine dedicated to the postal play of DIPLOMACY and other multi-player conflict simulation games. MM is published by Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304. Phone is (805) 834-8409. Subscription rate is \$5.50/12 issues; 50¢ each if purchased in smaller increments. There are no current game openings. Standbys are always welcomed.

Well, so much has been happening around this crazy place recently that I once again am late getting this out to youse guys. A couple of mini-vacations sandwiched around looking for another house and getting this one ready to seal has taken its toll on the old hobby time. Oh well. Three weeks late isn't that bad. Is it? Of course it is. We'll try and do better from now on!

I did manage to slip away for a weekend at ORIGINS, which was taking place on the West Coast for the first time since 1981. The Con was held at the LA Airport Hilton -- a very impressive facility for a game convention. It was by far the largest gaming con that I've ever attended. I heard recently that they are estimating approximately 7,000 folks gathered there for it! The open gaming was held in the Hotel Ball Room - (No, not that kind of Ball Room, Hugh; Get your mind out of the gutter!) - which was a huge room with at least two hundred small tables set up inside. Nearly all were filled nearly all the time! As luck would have it, Al Rodriguez, Mike Coburn, Jon Baldwin, and myself all arrived about 1½ hrs. too late to join the DIPLOMACY tournament. I cruised through the DIP area several times looking for folks I knew, but seeing only Ron Spitzer, who was in charge of running the affair. He was so busy I didn't even say, "Hi" to him! I thought the DIP tourney was rather small for such a grand con; but I did see Clark Reynolds on Sunday and he explained the the DIP tournament had spilled over into another area of the hotel that we knew nothing about - so I missed seeing at least Clark and Jay Shufeldt; and who knows who else. I wonder if Bill Hugh and Jack Masters made it as I heard they might. I didn't see them though. Although we only had a fairly short time there, (Sat. and Sun.) I enjoyed it tremendously and am looking forward to the next West Coast Origins, five to seven years from now.

PEERICON VI will be held August 1, 2, and 3rd in San Diego. This year Larry Peery will be hosting this large DIPPY get-together at 2242 Madison Ave., San Diego, CA 92116. The same Tournament Scoring System used at DipCon this year will be used for the main-event DIP tourney. There are many other events scheduled. Why not be there? The registration for the event is \$10.00 pre-registration and \$15.00 at the door. Write to Larry at Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102 or call (619) 295-6248. Stab you there!

Simon Billenness, 61A Park Ave., Albany, NY 12202-1722 continues to publish THE ZINE REGISTER. The latest issue is #6 and costs \$1.50. If you are looking for a place to start a new game of DIP, this is it! Did you know that there are 53 DIPPY zines in No. America? Find out all about them. Send for your copy of the ZRI!

Fred Davis, 1427 Clairidge Road, Baltimore, MD 21207 publishes the excellent Variant Zine BUSHWACKER. In Fred's June issue, he provides a detailed account of this year's DipCon held at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA May 30-June 1 this summer. It was most successful with an attendance of about 80 people. Most of the Hobby "Biggies" were there - including Allan Calhmer who even played in one game there. The event was even covered by The WASHINGTON POST and PEOPLE magazine! Dippy made the big time at last!

1983HX WINTER 1907

England- No Adj

Germany- A Bur-r-BUH; Build A-r-BUH

Russia- A Bud-r-VIE

Italy- Builds A ROM

Turkey- F Ion-r-AEG

1983HX SPRING 1908 RUSSKIES SEIZE SERBIA HIGHLIGHT OF SEASON AS GERMANY & ENGLAND REMAIN DEADLOCKED!!

England (Hugh):

A BUR-s-A Bel; A BEL-s-A Bur; F PIC-s-A Bel; F

Gas-BRE; F ENG-Nth; F HEL-Kie; F SKA-Den; F STP(nc)-Nwy.

Germany (Gorham):

F SWE-Nwy; F KIE-Hel; F DEN-Nth; A HOL-Bel; A RUH-s-A

Hol-Bel; A MUN-Bur.

Italy (Lucas):

A VEN-s-Russian A Tri; A MAR-s-English A Bur; A

ROM-s-F Nap-Apu; F Nap-APU; F ION-s-F Nap-Apu; F TUN-s-F Ion; F Lyo-TYS.

Russia (Gardner):

A Rum-SER; A TRI-s-A Rum-Ser; F Sev-RUH; A VIE-Bud; A

UKR-Gal; A MOS-Ukr.

Turkey (Torkelson):

A BUD-Gal; A Ser-Bud/d/-r-Gre, Alb, OTB; A BUL-Ser; A

F BLA-Bul(ec); F ARM-Bla; F Alb-ADR; F AEG-Ion.

Fall 1908 due Sept. 15th, 1986.

1983HX Press-

ENGLAND-RUSSIA:

Very clever piece of diplomacy, Mr. Gardner. You DO kiss and tell! Tits OK, bare ass me again and maybe I can finger it out! I'll see you again dear friend as soon as I crush this nerd between us!!

ENGLISH JOKE OF THE MONTH:

This very wealthy man had three mistresses and gave each of them £50K to spend wisely. The first spent all hers on clothes for herself; the second spent £25K on clothes for herself and put the rest in money-markets at 10.5% interest; the third speculated all hers into £1,000,000 on the stock market in a year's time. (Question): At the end of one year, which one of this wealthy man's mistresses did he marry? ((Answer: The one with the big tits!!

MACHIAVELLI No. 52 ENDGAME STATEMENTS

GM Comment - MACH. No. 52 finally ended, the first ever game of MACH to have been played out in the pages of MM. I had played in only one postal game of MACH myself, but thought that it would be a challenge and fun to gamesmaster. So we tried it, and sure enough the game was indeed fun to gamesmaster. Much like conventional DIP, MACH is supplemented with various chance ingredients -- plagues and famines, for instance -- plus has an economic system built in (i.e. the ducats in one's treasury). However, MACH seems to face the same problem I've noticed in most DIP variants. That is, player apathy. Many players dropped by the wayside and had to be replaced with people with even less interest. As a result, the thing that makes these kinds of games really fun in the first place, diplomacy, was lacking except by a few. The two biggest powers in the game, Venice and Milan, did not have to face any real united resistance, and therefore the two Big Boys were able to pretty much steam-roller through the game. Mike Guburn did well enough with Venice, but Jeff Albrecht really takes the game honors with his winning of the game with Milan. Congratulations, Jeff! The two surviving original players have comments to share . . .

Jeff Albrecht - (Milan) WINNER: I'm not really sure what I should say here. This was my first game of MACHIAVELLI. I appreciate Ron giving me the opportunity to play in the game and I especially appreciate his patience with me as I asked many stupid questions.

As far as the play of the game went, I was somewhat disappointed in it. There really never was very much correspondence with any of the other players. I was lucky enough to have two neighboring powers who never really were in the game -- many NMRs -- so it was a cake walk through their centers. And, southern neighbors never came together to offer opposition until later in the game. I wish I could attribute the win to brilliant play and expert strategy, but it was mostly neighborhood apathy while I plodded forward.

Again, Ron, thanks for the game and the chance to get my Machiavellian feet wet.

1984CH WINTER 1905 (GM Note: Austria owns ROM - (6) +1; Turkey owns SEV - (5) +1

Austria- Builds A^{*}BUD

England- F Den-r-OTB; Disbands F Nwy

France- Builds F BRE

Italy- F Tri-r-ADR; F Ion-r-OTB

Russia- Builds A MOS

Turkey- Builds F SHY

1984CH SPRING 1906 AUSTRIANS DRIVEN BACK BEFORE GATES OF WARSAW! LONDON FULL OF FROGS! POPE GORHAM RETURNS TO RETAKE ROME! SULTAN PROMISES AID TO BRITS!

Austria (Johnson): A TRI-s-A Vic-Tya; A Vic-TYA; A BUD-s-A Tri; ●

F Rom-s-Turkish F Ion-Nap/d/-r-Tus,OTB; A GAL-s-A Ukr-War; ●

A Ukr-War/d/-r-Sev,OTB.

England (Bumpas): A EDI-s-F Iri-Lpl; F Iri-LPL; F Lon-WAL.

France (Torkelson): F Eng-LON; F Lpl-s-F MAO-Iri/d/-r-Nat,Cly,OTB; F MAO-IRI; F Bre-MAO; A Bel-RUH; A HOL-s-A Kie; A KIE-s-A Hol; F Mar-LYO; F WES-s-F Mar-Lyo; A Tya-Vic/d/-r-Mun,Pie,OTB.

Italy (Gorham): A Ven-ROM; F TYS-s-A Ven-Rom; F Adr-VEN.

Russia (Schilling): A Mos-UKR; A WAR-s-A Mos-Ukr; A BOH-Gal; A

BER-s-French A Kie; F Fin-SWE; F DEN-s-F Fin-Swe; A STP-H.

Turkey (Hugh): F Sev-BLA; A Bul-RUM; F Smy-AEG; F Ion-NAP; F

Gre-ION.

Sept.

Fall 1906 is due 15, 1986. Thanks to Jerry Lucas, whose standby orders were not needed.

1984CH Press-

TURKEY-AUSTRIA: Don't be nervous as I'm just passing through this wonderful vacationland of Rumania. Beautiful country, isn't it? I'll try real hard not to become too attached to it!!

EDINBURGH: Ben, if you can hold off taking NWY for awhile, I can be much more help vs. France.

TURKEY-ENGLAND: Hey, Jim, you are impressive fighting off those Commie Frogs and Froggy Commies all by yourself. Bravo old chap!! Sorry I can't help you myself -- I'm coming; can you hold on??

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MACHIAVELLI

((Con'd from pg. 2))

Dan Falter - (Turks) Survivor: First, congrats to Jeff. Second, For a change I can say that I played a creditable game - certainly not brilliant but equally so, nothing to be ashamed of. Third, it held together better than most postal MACH games I've seen. Fourth, regrettably third covers a very low standard. MACH, which I treat here as a DIP Variant, suffers the fate of most such postally. Many of the players enter out of curiosity and lose interest quickly. Many of the rest are DIP addicts such as myself, who are way overcommitted in far too many games. The result is a megadrop/NMR rate plus a paucity of subs. The few players who see it through to the end are largely playing solitaire against a board determined by which Powers are effectively in CD. However, hope lingers on and given a chance I'd play again. Lastly, many thanks to Ron for a clean and well-run game.

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MORE STUFF (Con'd from pg. 1)

Wonder what Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226, has been doing with all his spare time since he stopped publishing all those massive volumes of THE VOICE OF DOOM? Well, check it out. He has released the results of the 1986 North American Zine and GM Poll (The Runestone Poll) in his excellently done THE CREAM SHALL RISE! He also has just released his Publisher's Handbook, ONCE UPON A DEADLINE. Both are excellent and worth much more than the amount charged by Linsey. You may get your copy of the Poll results for \$1.00 if you voted, \$2.00 if you didn't. The Publisher's Handbook costs \$3.00 and is easily worth at least thrice that amount. Why not send for yours today? Write to Bruce at the above address to order yours, or for more info. See this issue's WRAP-UP for some Poll results discussion!

1983CS FINAL STATS and ENDGAME STATEMENTS

1983CS MURD'RING MINISTERS (Ron Brown) Austria: Ken Hager; England: Stan Johnson (DRAW F'08); France: Mark Rowell (DRAW F'08); Germany: Mike Kettman (DROP F'05) CD (OUT W'06); Italy: Jon Baldwin (DROP W'06) CD (OUT F'08) Russia: Daniel Gorham; Turkey: Ted Pitas.

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
A	5	5	5	4	4	3	3	4
E	5	5	5	6	8	11	11	13
F	4	5	7	8	8	12	11	13
G	4	4	2	1	1	0	-	-
I	4	4	5	4	3	1	1	0
R	5	6	5	5	3	1	1	0
T	4	5	5	6	7	7	7	4

GM Note: This game began as the 21st game of regular DIP to be run in the pages of MM (by me). I must apologize to the players of this and the last few games to finish here. I have found it more and more difficult to get speedy game results out to you all; the quality of the GMing really went down these last few games and I appreciate all the players for hanging in there and supporting me. Thanks. The game began with both England and France enjoying rapid early growth. Italy began a rather bizarre eastern campaign which featured an isolated army rampaging through the Balkans. Ken Hager's Austria did a great job jockeying around with various centers and remained a factor throughout the game. I think England (Stan) was leaning towards going for a win there for awhile at the end, but ultimately decided to settle for the two-way with his long time ally, France (Mark). Congratulations to Stan Johnson and Mark Rowell for an excellently played game!!

Stan Johnson (England): The most difficult part of this game was getting Ron to send me my MM's. Once that was taken care of, it was pretty much a cakewalk. I did consider attacking France midway through; but when Turkey pulled back and gave him a bunch of builds; I changed my mind. I'm glad I was able to maintain my alliance with Mark Rowell; who is a good player and also a good gaming friend. Mark deserves the Lion's share of the credit, for this victory, as he did the most fighting. Congrats to Austria too, for being a survivor. I admired his vendetta against Turkey.

Ken Hager (Austria): The game is over and I'm still alive! While mere survival leaves much to be desired, I still can't help feel a great deal of satisfaction in this particular case. Attacked by Italy in 1901 and later double-teamed by Italy and Turkey, there were many times when I felt that there was little hope of ever reaching this point. But, thanks to some spirited defense and a stalwart French ally, I lived to see Italy drop out and be eliminated and Turkey distinguish himself by his blatant cowardice. Not an altogether unhappy ending, all things considered.

Congratulations to Mark and Stan for the well-deserved victory. I enjoyed working with both of you, but especially Mark. Thanks for allowing me the satisfaction of taking three Turkish centers that last year. It was sweet indeed!

Well - everything that could go wrong did as far as getting this issue mailed out - I'll explain more next time as I just want to get this thing mailed!
Bye! Ron